

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image display device for displaying an image to viewers, comprising:

5 an application state detecting unit configured to detect the operating state of predetermined application software;

a first display unit configured to display the image; and

10 a control unit configured to control whether to operate the first display unit or not in accordance with the operating state detected by the application state detecting unit.

15 2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the operating state which the application state detecting unit detects includes the starting state of the application software, and

20 when the start of the application software is detected by the application state detecting unit, the control unit sets the first display unit to a state where it is permitted to display an image associated with the application software.

25 3. The device according to claim 2, wherein the control unit causes the first display unit to display only the image associated with the application software set to the permitted state.

4. The device according to claim 2, further comprising a switch configured to turn ON/OFF the first

display unit, wherein

when turned ON by the switch, the first display unit displays only an image which has been set to the permitted state by the control unit.

- 5 5. The device according to claim 1, wherein
 the operating state which the application state detecting unit detects includes the stopping operation state of the application software, and
 when the stopping operation of the application
10 software is detected by the application state detecting unit, the control unit sets the first display unit to a state where it is not permitted to display an image associated with the application software.

- 15 6. The device according to claim 5, further comprising a second display unit configured to display an image to an operator of the image display device, wherein

- 20 the control unit caused at least the second display unit to display an image associated with application software set to the non-permitted state.

- 25 7. The device according to claim 1, wherein
 the operating state which the application state detecting unit detects includes the entire-screen display state of a window associated with the application software, and

 when the entire-screen display state of the window associated with the application software is detected by

the application state detecting unit, the control unit sets the first display unit to a state where it is permitted to display an image associated with the started application software on an entire-screen display basis.

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8. The device according to claim 7, wherein the control unit causes the first display unit to display only the image associated with the application software set to the permitted state.

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9. The device according to claim 7, further comprising a switch configured to turn ON/OFF the first display unit, wherein

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when turned ON by the switch, the first display unit displays only an image which has been set to the permitted state by the control unit.

10. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a state setting unit configured to set an operating state that the application state detecting unit detects for each application software.

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11. The device according to claim 10, further comprising a state storing unit configured to store the operating state of each application software set by the state setting unit.

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12. The device according to claim 11, wherein the state storing unit includes a portable storage medium.

13. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a state setting unit configured to set an

operating state that the application state detecting unit detects for at least one of each image data and each directory storing the image data.

14. The device according to claim 13, further comprising a state storing unit configured to store the operating state of each application software set by the state setting unit.
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15. The device according to claim 14, wherein the state storing unit includes a portable storage medium.

10 16. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a state setting unit configured to set an operating state that the application state detecting unit detects for each operator.

15 17. The device according to claim 16, further comprising a state storing unit configured to store the operating state of each application software set by the state setting unit.

18. The device according to claim 17, wherein the state storing unit includes a portable storage medium.

20 19. A program which controls image data to be output to an external display device connected to a computer, the program causing the computer to perform the following functions:

25 an application state detecting function of detecting the operating state of application software running on the computer; and

a display control function of controlling the

image data to be output to the external display device according to the operating state detected by the application state detecting function.

20. The program according to claim 19, wherein
5 the operating state which the application state detecting function detects includes the starting state of the application software, and

10 the display control function includes a function of output image data to the external display device when the start of the application software is detected
by the application state detecting function.

15 21. The program according to claim 19, wherein
 the operating state which the application state detecting function detects includes the stopping operation state of the application software, and

20 the display control function includes a function of stop the output of image data to the external display device when the stopping operation of the application software is detected by the application state detecting function.

25 22. The program according to claim 19, wherein
 the operating state which the application state detecting function detects includes the entire-screen display state of a window associated with the application software, and

 the display control function includes a function of output image data to the external display device

when the entire-screen display state of the window associated with the application software is detected by the application state detecting function.

23. A method which controls image data to be
5 output to an external display device connected to a computer, comprising:

detecting the operating state of application software running on the computer; and
controlling the image data to be output to the
10 external display device according to the detected operating state.

24. An image display device for displaying an image to viewers, comprising:

application state detecting means for detecting
15 the operating state of predetermined application software;

first display means for displaying the image; and control means for controlling whether to operate the first display means or not in accordance with the
20 operating state detected by the application state detecting means.